

OUR RECORD.

It is not pleasant, nor is it seemly, to sound one's own praises. Nor is such egotism more repugnant to any nature than it is to our own. Yet there are times and occasions when most of us find it necessary and proper to speak of our conduct with such fulness of candor as may seem to the fastidious to encroach upon good taste. The present is such an occasion with us.

When we embarked in our newspaper enterprise, we had the ill luck of finding principalities and powers against us. Efforts commencing then and continued up to this time, have been industriously made to crush us out. We have been condemned where we should have been welcomed, and suspected where we should have been trusted. In order to discredit us with the Democratic party, and counteract any influence that we might exert, doubts and suspicions have been insidiously and sedulously circulated against our democracy.

We determined from the first to publish an honest, straight-forward Democratic paper—a paper not for the upholding of men or administrations, but for the upholding of the time-honored, State-rights principles of democracy. In pursuing this idea, which we think the only true theory of political newspapers, we have sometimes found it necessary to condemn men, and to differ from the present Democratic Administration. But, unincumbered by caprice and unmoved by malice, we have never in any instance made captious objections. To our record as a Democratic journal, we challenge investigation and defy criticism. It is unstained by personal rancor, unpolluted by trick or fraud, and altogether unmarked by any, the slightest, aberration from the creed and principles of the Democratic party.

If we have at times expressed our dissent from the Administration, it was painful to us to do so. We have felt, and always expect to feel, that our first duty is due to the great principles of our party, and our second duty to the men who are appointed to carry out and illustrate them. We can point to our record in evidence of the fact that if we have blamed, when blame was merited, we have praised, when praise was due. We could do nothing more, nothing less, and would not, and will not, under any circumstances, come what may. We shall not undertake to trace with minuteness the course of the *Sentinel* since its commencement. That would require more time and space than are at our command. We shall only refer to a few marked incidents in our humble career.

When we started our enterprise the war of the New York Shells had just broken out and threatened to disturb the peace, if it should not destroy, the integrity of the Democracy as a great national organization. We deplored such divisions in the ranks of the New York Democrats, and would have done all in our power to have tranquilized and reconciled the excited adherents of the separated parties. But just at the time when the "balm of Gilead" might have been most opportunely and efficaciously applied—just at that time the great strong arm of the Federal power was interposed between them. It was gently raised to smite the South, and was extended in anger to smite the Hards. We said promptly and fearlessly that the Federal Government had no right to interfere between the Democrats of New York in a State quarrel. We said, moreover, that in sustaining and maintaining the South, the Administration was stimulating free-soilism, rewarding treason, and warming into a serpent that would sting it. The course we took brought down upon our devoted heads the same hand that smote the Hards, and we were set on as vile a pack of hungry hounds as ever hunted for food.

Has not our judgment in respect to the New York Democracy been signally vindicated? That it has no one can gainsay. That division of the party which we condemned has lost the confidence of both the Administration and the Washington Union, and fastened its envenomed fangs in the generous bosom that warmed it into life. That other division which we sustained has planted itself firmly upon the great principles of Democracy, and at this moment enjoys the sympathy and esteem of sound Democrats throughout the country.

Another measure in reference to which we took ground was that proposed monopoly, gigantic in its proportions—a Government railroad to the Pacific. From the first we denounced it.

Again: We denounced and condemned as soon as it was proposed the high protective policy recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury, which we were the first to show was repugnant to every sentiment of the Democracy.

Next came up the Nebraska Kansas bill, and we claim and can claim with truth that we were its first and firmest friends. When our co-quettish and feeble Democratic neighbor here, manifesting that amphibious nature that distinguishes the politicians of his school, was one day for and another against it, we planted ourselves upon the principles of the bill, and upheld them without any shadow of turning.

Next sprang up a question as to the appointment of governors for the two newly organized Territories—Nebraska and Kansas. The policy of the Administration, and of our Democratic contemporary was to appoint a Northern man Governor of Nebraska, and a Southern man Governor of Nebraska. This we remonstrated against. It seemed to us like sending fire to Africa, and snow to the polar regions. But our humble remonstrances proved to be of no avail, and the policy was pursued. Governor Reeder went off to Kansas in a blaze of glory. But a few months elapsed, however, before discontent and disturbances broke out there. Pro-slavery people accused him of being un-sound, and the Emigrant Aid Society emissaries claimed him to be what he is, their leader. Then came other complaints—charges of corruption—and of illegal speculations. We presume that these charges were proved, for Governor Reeder was dismissed from office. Our judgment was thus vindicated. These prominent political events of the last year or two

to which we thus briefly advert, show what we have asserted, that under all circumstances, and on all occasions, we have walked without wavering and without wavering the straight path of Democracy. We have nothing to repent or to recant in our editorial career. Our convictions are firm, and our course has therefore been consistent. We have not been for want of faith, or for want of investigation, compelled to temporize, and resort to the arts of diplomacy and the resources of duplicity. What we are, we are, and what we have written, we have written.

This much we have deemed it fit and proper to say, since we are aware that insidious efforts have been made to prejudice us in many high and influential quarters.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The condition of the Democratic party, in being reduced to so small a minority in the House of Representatives, very naturally gives rise to the question—How comes it so?

The Democracy fighting on the Baltimore platform of 1852, triumphed by an unexampled majority. In that contest the opposing forces were led by the great Commander-in-chief of the American Army in Mexico, with all his laurels still green upon his brow. But although General Scott accepted the nomination with the platform of the Whig party, he did not and would not say he approved of it. The consequence was, a belief gained ground that he disapproved of the support of nearly every State in the Union, leaving him in the most pitiable defeat that man ever received.

Had the standard-bearer of the party maintained the antagonism to free-soilism which had given him the most splendid of triumphs, the party would not have been subjected to the humiliations it has since endured.

But the distrust which stripped General Scott of his supporters, by his refusal to approve the Whig platform, entered the Democratic ranks, the moment the leader of the party placed its standard in the hands of the Free-soilers. This was that fatal movement which distracted and paralyzed the Democracy.

Had the Administration adhered inflexibly to the principles which gave it power, the Democratic party would not now have to endure the humiliation of being a minority in the House of Representatives.

But by bribing Democrats to become Free-soilers, by giving to them office in preference to those who acknowledged no fellowship or right to reward for any who did not fully subscribe to the great principles laid down in the Baltimore platform of 1852. That the Administration received into its especial favor free-soilers who spit upon and repudiated the principles which placed it in power, it now acknowledges. The chief of these, John Van Buren, boasts that the Administration appointed to high offices the advocates of the Buffalo platform, and thus sanctioned it, they being still of that faith. The condition of affairs has forced its organ to repudiate John Van Buren, and John Van Buren alone, notwithstanding he has named the men who live and swear by him, and who retain office. John Van Buren and they have not changed; they are now what they were when they were taken into especial favor; and what is very certain had any proper test been applied to them, the cloven foot would have unmasked them as readily as now.

The Democratic patriots with Roman virtue scorned alike the threats and persuasions of the Administration, acting under its unhappy delusion in regard to Free-soilism. It hoodwinked itself, and because it could not then see the cloven foot, would not believe it existed.

But soon John Van Buren reeking all over and at all times with Free-soilism, was not communicated by the Union, until the complexion of the House rendered its election as printer out of the question. It was not until this fact became fixed, and patent, that the Union discovered the heresy of John Van Buren—nor, we presume, would it ever have discovered if the complexion of the House had not deprived the Union of hope there. It has shifted its sails now to catch the breeze from another quarter, with which to sail without Free-soil blasts. Its sails have been set to Free-soil winds so long as it would propel its bark. It now courts the wind from another quarter.

All these evils, the casting the Democracy into a minority in the House, and the loss of States are clearly traceable to the mistaken leniency and compromise of the Administration, who at one time made the Kansas bill an issue, and at another excommunicated its great ally, because he is consistent with the first declaration of the administration that it should not be a test.

Compromises of principle are always wrong, and will surely sooner or later bring their punishment with them.

The *Sentinel* was established for the express purpose of taking the honored standard which led the Democracy to its most glorious victory, but had been thrown aside in shame by those who ought to have preserved it with their lives.

BEGINNING OF THE WAR IN KANSAS.

A despatch dated St. Louis, November 30, is as follows:

"We have accounts from Independence to-day, stating that the armed free States men had attempted to drive Mr. Coleman, a pro-slavery settler, from his claim near Hickory Point.

"Mr. Coleman killed one of his assailants, when a mob gathered together and drove him and other settlers off, and then burned down their houses. The ringleader in this case was arrested by Marshal Jones, and taken to LeCompton.

"Governor Shannon has called out the militia.

"Many citizens from Independence, Weston, and St. Joseph, have gone to offer their services to the Governor to restore order. The people of Lawrence are in arms, and have five pieces of artillery.

"A number of houses have been burnt in Douglas county, and several families driven to Missouri for refuge.

"The law and order people of the Territory are rallying in large numbers to assist the Sheriff in the execution of the laws. Sixteen houses were burnt at Hickory Point, and several of the citizens were missing."

It seems to be the fate of the young Territory of Kansas to be the scene of unceasing strife and agitation. Yet, while many exciting scenes have been enacted there, nothing has occurred so serious in its nature as the doings described in the above despatch. The rebellious conduct of the Abolition party and the

mob spirit manifested by them seem to have made it necessary for the Governor to call out the militia. It is, indeed, much to be deplored, that this new and virgin Territory should, so soon after its settlement, be polluted by the tread of ruffians and stained with the blood of human victims.

The unanimous nomination by the Democratic members of the House of Representatives of Colonel Richardson, of Illinois, to the Speakership, was a fit and a merited tribute to a gentleman who has signalled his patriotism by heroic efforts both on the field of battle and in the halls of legislation. No truer, no braver, no better, and no more capable man can be found in the country.

We publish below the proceedings of the Democratic members of the House of Representatives, who assembled on Saturday evening in the Hall, to arrange for the organization of the House.

Democratic Nominations.

At a meeting of Democratic members of the Thirty-fourth Congress, held in the hall of the House of Representatives on the evening of the 1st of December, 1855, Hon. George W. Jones, of Tennessee, was selected chairman, and Hon. W. H. English, of Indiana, and Hon. Thomas Ruffin, of North Carolina, were selected secretaries.

The following resolution, introduced by Hon. J. Glancy Jones, of Pennsylvania, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Democratic members of the House of Representatives, though in a temporary minority in this body, deem this a fit occasion to tender to their fellow-citizens of the whole Union their heartfelt congratulations on the triumph, in the recent elections in several of the northern, eastern, and western, as well as southern States, of the principles of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and the doctrine of civil and religious liberty, which have been so violently assailed by a secret political order known as the Know-nothing party; and though in a minority, we hold it to be our highest duty to preserve our organization and continue our efforts in the maintenance and defence of those principles and the constitutional rights of every section and every class of citizens against the attacks of every description, whether the so-called Republicans, Know-nothings, or Fusionists; and to this end, we look with confidence to the support and approbation of all good and true men—friends of the Constitution and the Union throughout the country.

The meeting then proceeded to select candidates for the various offices connected with the organization of the House, when the following gentlemen were nominated by acclamation, viz:

For Speaker—Hon. W. A. Richardson, of Illinois.
For Clerk—A. D. Banks, of Virginia.
For Sergeant-at-Arms—A. J. Glossbrenner, of Pennsylvania.
For Doorkeeper—Z. W. McKnew, of Maryland.
For Postmaster—John M. Johnson, of Virginia.
Public Printer—Cornelius Wendell, of New York.
GEORGE W. JONES,
W. H. ENGLISH,) Secretaries.
THOMAS RUFFIN,)

CONGRESS.

The first session of the Thirty-fourth Congress commenced yesterday, and the opening formalities were witnessed by very many spectators, who thronged the galleries and the lobbies of the halls of the Capitol.

The proceedings of the Senate were quiet as compared with those of the House, where the effort to elect a presiding officer were progressing. Four trials were made with this view, but finding that further attempts were likely to prove equally fruitless, an adjournment took place at an early hour. The members will reassemble to-day, and resume their voting on that important subject.

LAUNCH OF THE MINNESOTA.

The Minnesota, one of the six steamers for the construction of which an appropriation was made at the first session of the late Congress, was launched at the Washington navy yard on Saturday, between two and three o'clock, in the presence of thousands of people, of all ages, classes, and conditions.

The Union, in describing the interesting spectacle, says:

"At twelve o'clock precisely a small army of workmen commenced removing the prope, and at one o'clock the staidway which connected the ironed ship with terra firma was cut loose. There were on board, including workmen, sailors, and their officers, upwards of one thousand persons, but of this large number there were not more than thirty ladies, timidity and fear having fairly tripped over curiosity."

"A few hundred yards from the wharf the United States steamer Engineer was stationed for the accommodation of the President of the United States, the members of his Cabinet, and invited guests. At one o'clock the President and his party arrived. He was loudly cheered by the assembled multitude, and was received with the appropriate salute and escorted to the wharf by a detachment of marines, preceded by a fine band of music. The Secretary of the Navy, who was informed, was on board of the frigate, partaking of all the supposed dangers and real excitement of the launch.

"At two o'clock the whole scene made up a living picture of surpassing interest; the huge ship, with its precious freight, trembling on her ways, as if anxious for a speedy release; the yard, the wharves, the neighboring houses, the available space, the first glass of course of Maryland, were lined with people with eager, anxious, upturned faces; the broad bosom of our lordly river was literally covered with sail-boats and wherries, while looming up among them, like whales among minnows, were three large steamers black with launchers."

"At twenty minutes past two o'clock the last impediment was removed, and amid the booming of cannon and the loud exulting shouts of the assembled thousands, first slowly and hesitatingly, and then with one graceful dash, the Minnesota embraced the element of which she is destined to be so distinguished an ornament. In accordance with time-honored usage, before the ship reached the water Miss Susan L. Mann, a young lady of this city, approached the bow, and in due form baptized the noble vessel, giving her the name of "Minnesota."

"The headway of the vessel was soon checked, and she came to anchor some five hundred yards distant from her place of birth. There were two bottles of wine produced in honor of the occasion, the first glass of course being tendered to Miss Mann. Instead of offering a sentiment, as was expected, she cast a timid glance towards Hon. Rice of Minnesota, who gallantly came to her rescue. In a few remarks, which were loudly cheered, he told the crowd how delighted the people of his Territory were when they heard that this noble ship was to be named the Minnesota, and that the water used in christening the ship was brought to this city from Minnesota river by Hon. Mr. Rice."

Congressional.

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.—Monday, December 3, 1855.

The Senate was called to order at 12 o'clock by President pro tem, when the following Senators appeared in their seats:

From Maine—Messrs. Hamlin and Fessenden.
From Vermont—Mr. Foot.
From Massachusetts—Messrs. Sumner and Wilson.
From Rhode Island—Messrs. Allen and James.
From Connecticut—Mr. Toucey.
From Ohio—Mr. Wade.
From New Jersey—Messrs. Thomson and Wright.
From Delaware—Messrs. Bayard and Clayton.
From Pennsylvania—Mr. Reid.
From Maryland—Mr. Pratt.
From Virginia—Mr. Mason.
From North Carolina—Mr. Brodhead.
From South Carolina—Mr. Evans.
From Alabama—Mr. Clay.
From Mississippi—Messrs. Adams and Brown.
From California—Mr. Wells.
From Oregon—Mr. Walcott.
From Indiana—Mr. Bright.
From Tennessee—Mr. Jones.
From Missouri—Mr. Geyer.
From Michigan—Messrs. Cass and Stuart.
From Wisconsin—Mr. Briggs.
From Iowa—Mr. Jones.

Mr. CLAY presented the credentials of Hon. BENJAMIN FITZPATRICK, elected a Senator by the Legislature of the State of Alabama for the term of six years from and after the 4th of March 1855; which were read, and Mr. F. having appeared, the oath prescribed by the Constitution was administered to him, and he took his seat in the Senate.

Mr. FOOT presented the credentials of Hon. JACOB COLLAMER, elected a Senator by the Legislature of the State of Vermont, for the term of six years from and after the 4th of March 1855; which were read, and Mr. C. appeared, was qualified and took his seat in the Senate.

Mr. REID presented the credentials of Hon. ASH. G. PIERCE, elected a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, for the term of six years from and after the 4th of March 1855; which were read, and Mr. P. appeared, was qualified and took his seat in the Senate.

Mr. LAY presented the credentials of Hon. WM. H. SEWARD, elected a Senator by the Legislature of the State of New York, for the term of six years from and after the 4th of March 1855; which were read, and Mr. S. appeared, was qualified and took his seat in the Senate.

Mr. TOUCEY presented the credentials of Hon. L. S. FOSTER, elected a Senator from the State of Ohio, for the term of six years from and after the 4th of March 1855; which were read, and Mr. F. appeared, was qualified and took his seat.

Mr. WELLES presented the credentials of Hon. GEORGE E. PIERCE, elected a Senator from the State of Ohio, for the term of six years from and after the 4th of March 1855; which were read, and Mr. P. appeared, was qualified and took his seat.

Mr. LAY presented the credentials of Hon. JAMES BELL, elected a Senator from the State of Georgia, for the term of six years from and after the 4th of March 1855; which were read, and Mr. B. appeared, was qualified and took his seat.

Mr. LAYTON presented the credentials of Hon. JAMES BELL, elected a Senator from the State of Kentucky, but his certificate was not present, and he moved that he be sworn in. No objection being made, the oath was administered to Mr. C. and he took his seat.

Mr. EVANS made the same request in relation to his colleague, Hon. A. P. BUTLER, who had been elected a Senator from the State of South Carolina, and the oath of office was accordingly administered to Mr. B., who took his seat.

Mr. CRITTENDEN presented the credentials of Hon. LYMAN RUMFOLD, elected a Senator from the State of Illinois, for the term of six years from and after the 4th of March 1855; which were read, and Mr. R. appeared, was qualified and took his seat.

Mr. CASS presented a protest of a portion of the members of the Legislature of Illinois against the election of Mr. Trumbull. He would make no objection to the gentleman's taking his seat; and when the committees should be organized, and the reference of the matter to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. TRUMBULL then appeared, was qualified, and took his seat.

Mr. JONES presented the credentials of Hon. JAMES HARLAN, elected a Senator from the State of Iowa for the term of six years from and after the 4th of March 1855; which were read, and Mr. J. appeared, was qualified and took his seat.

On motion by Mr. HAMLIN, it was Ordered, That the daily hour of meeting be 12 o'clock, m., until otherwise ordered.

The Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.

At twelve o'clock, m., Colonel Forney, the Clerk of the House, called the House to order, and, in accordance with usage, proceeded to call the roll, when two hundred and twenty-five members answered to their names.

The following named gentlemen were severally nominated and voted for, viz: Mr. Speaker of the present Congress; Messrs. ROBINSON, of New Jersey; DOWDLE, of Alabama; HICKMAN, of Pennsylvania; and WASHBURN, of Illinois, acting as tellers.

William A. Richardson, of Illinois..... 74
Lewis D. Campbell, of Ohio..... 53
Humphrey Marshall, of Kentucky..... 39
N. P. Banks, Jr., of Massachusetts..... 23
H. M. Fuller, of Pennsylvania..... 17
A. M. C. Pennington, of New Jersey..... 17

Other gentlemen were voted for; but as neither had received the necessary number (13) for an election, the House again proceeded to vote, with the following result:

Mr. Richardson..... 74
Mr. Campbell..... 55
Mr. Banks..... 52
Mr. Pennington..... 7
Mr. Marshall..... 30
Mr. Fuller..... 18

Various other gentlemen, as before, were voted for, but without a definite result.

On the third trial:

Mr. Richardson..... 74
Mr. Campbell..... 55
Mr. Banks..... 52
Mr. Pennington..... 8
Mr. Marshall..... 30
Mr. Fuller..... 18

Sixteen scattering. One hundred and twelve votes were necessary to a choice. There was, as a consequence, no election.

Resolved, That the day of meeting be postponed to the 12th of December, at 12 o'clock, m. The House adjourned.

Lola Montes Again in Trouble.

The *Chronicle* learns from a passenger on the What Cheer, from Australia, that Lola Montes had a stormy passage from the port to Sydney. The lay-day of Lola was at fault in some matter of etiquette, when the mate gave him a kick; Lola seeing this rudeness, drew her dagger, and attempted to stab the officer. Her design was frustrated, and she took such a disgust, that she refused to live in the cabin, and took up her quarters in the stateroom. At her first appearance on the stage in Sydney there were only three or four ladies present, but when she was called out at the falling of the curtain, she made a speech, and rendered particular thanks to the ladies for their patronage.—*San Francisco News.*

Communicated.

TECUMSEH, K. T., Nov. 20, 1855.

To the Editors of the Washington Sentinel:

Our late election for Delegate to Congress, which resulted in the re-election of the Hon. John W. Whitfield, has been a theme of much newspaper comment, as well as adding much to the general interest manifested throughout the country as regards Kansas affairs. It is due to this worthy representative and true patriot, and to his constituents, as well as the great Democratic party, with which he has so long acted, that the political circumstances under which he was elected should be properly explained, so that his position as a partisan may be plainly understood and properly appreciated.

In Kansas, among the masses, political questions of a national character attract but little attention and excite but little interest. Questions of local policy, in which their more immediate interest is involved, have engrossed their attention, of which the most important is that of exercising the constitutional right of ownership and use of negro property. This sacred right has been denied to our citizens by the disciples of Abolitionism, who have sought, through the instrumentality of the "aid societies" of Massachusetts and other Northern States, to take possession of this beautiful Territory and appropriate it to their entire use and benefit, and hold it not only by their political, but by their physical strength, to the entire exclusion of the slaveholder with his constitutional property. This assertion may seem somewhat incompatible with some recent demonstrations of liberality which have been made by the Abolitionists and their condescended allies in publishing a platform of principles which has been generally circulated through the Abolition papers for the purpose of deceiving the people of the country as to the true principles of those men who are endeavoring to make Kansas a free State; yet it is nevertheless true that many of those who figured conspicuously in the deliberations of the convention that adopted the platform of principles above referred to, were the boldest in denying the right to hold slave property, and endeavoring, by the inefficiency of the settlement of the Territory, to marshal the forces to exclude the owners of this property from settling upon the virgin soil of Kansas; but in this they were not successful. Such gross attempts at the violation of constitutional right aroused the feelings and excited the determination of every son of the South and every conservative man from the North here into action, to devise means of protection. The question of protecting the constitutional property brought into the Territory by emigrants from the slaveholding States, absorbed all others, and made subservient to its influence a union in sentiment and feeling of all the constitutional and conservative men of the two great parties which have heretofore wielded the destinies of this great Republic. This union of parties was the result of necessity; it was the union of the friends of the Constitution and the principles of popular sovereignty, the fundamental doctrine of Republican government, of which the controlling spirit of the Kansas-Nebraska bill is the true model. The party thus formed bears the name of the Pro-slavery party, a name derived from an institution which it seeks to protect; yet, whilst it seeks to protect this important institution of the South, it seeks also to guard and protect, with equal vigilance, the constitutional rights of every citizen of the Territory, whether he came from the North or from the South.

It has been the instrument by which law and order have been established, and by which the rights of the sovereign squatter have been protected.

There was an effort made after the permanent organization of this party, to get up an organization of a party under the name of the "National Democracy"; this was an effort to grasp at the shadow without the substance, to adopt the name without the principle. Those who gave birth to this effort were better known by their abolition proclivities than their devotion to the creed and principles of the Democratic party; in short, it was a subterfuge resorted to by the abolition and free-soil demagogues, behind which to screen their abolition sentiments, and through which they hoped to effect a disorganization of the Pro-slavery party. With such men, the Democracy would not rally. By thus refusing, they fully sustained a principle upon which the Democracy of the country have always acted, and that is, not to affiliate or have any political connection with Free-soilers or Abolitionists, but, on the contrary, to exclude from their ranks all such traitors.

In Kansas, in the unsettled connection of a mixed population, among whom excitement is the predominant spirit, and that, too, upon all absorbing question—whether the Abolitionists shall rule or not? it would be impossible to effect an organization of the Democratic party—that is, a party bearing that name. It would be an effort to disorganize the party which has been formed by a union of all conservative men; and those constitutional rights which thus far have been protected, would again be paralyzed should the Democratic party be in the minority.

Thus it is shown that there can, from necessity, be but two parties here at this time—the pro-slavery or constitutional party, and the abolition party—the former seeking to establish law and order, and thereby protect the constitutional rights of the citizens, and the latter having the higher law extreme for its creed, rebellion to the Constitution its motto, and ruin to our glorious Union its only aim. But, to a patriot, it is a consolation to know that this latter party in Kansas is in a hopeless minority, and ere long will be crushed under the weight of its own vile and worthless power.

The pro-slavery, or what might with great propriety be called the constitutional party, on the 30th of August last, at the Shawnee Manual Labor School, in convention assembled, in which every settlement in the Territory was represented, the object of which was to nominate a candidate for Delegate to Congress. After permanently organizing, the result of its deliberations was the unanimous nomination of the Hon. John W. Whitfield. His political faith was well known to this convention. He was known to be a sound constitutional Democrat of the State-rights school; he was also known to favor the protection of the constitutional rights of the slaveholder in and out of Kansas. Nor was this all; in conferring upon him this nomination, the people of Kansas manifested their high appreciation of his indefatigable labors as their representative in the last Congress, and also their hearty endorsement of his political course whilst occupying that high and responsible position. General Whitfield accepted this nomination, and, in doing this, he said he was not called on to compromise any article of his political creed as a constitutional Democrat that he would not do, nor was he called on to give a different shape to the course of policy which he heretofore advocated as being in his judgment most conducive to the interest of the citizens of Kansas. As regards local policy, he preferred the institutions of the South, coming as he did from the sunny clime of a Southern State, the love of his birth and his home, until he left to cast his lot among the sovereign pioneers of Kansas, and from the ample opportunity which a long residence in the South afforded was deeply impressed with the whole.

some and practical benefits resulting from the institution of negro slavery as it existed in the Southern States to both the white and the black race, and would therefore prefer seeing that institution permanently incorporated with the local institutions of Kansas, believing that the climate was congenial to the physical constitution of the negro, whilst from the fertility of the soil, and the products common thereto, the master would be amply remunerated. He canvassed the Territory, and addressed the people in every settlement; he spoke to them of the Constitution and the rights guaranteed to that sacred instrument; he spoke of the great principles of popular sovereignty which was the life and spirit of the Kansas Nebraska bill, and advised the people to stand square up in support of it as it was guaranteed to them. He denounced the Abolitionists and Free-soilers as firebrands thrown among the peace and happiness of society, and conspirators against the free principles of our Republican Government. He spoke of the great truths contained in the creed of the Democratic party, and endorsed the course of the present Democratic Administration, particularly as regards Kansas affairs. Under these circumstances, and with this political creed, on the first day of October last, in accordance with the laws of the Territory, the Hon. John W. Whitfield was re-elected, and thus he stands as the representative of the sovereign squatters of Kansas.

CONSTITUTION.

From the El NiCaragueño, extra.
Colonel Wheeler's Address to the President of Nicaragua, and His Reply.

We alluded in our regular issue of Saturday to the fact of the official reception of the Hon. J. H. Wheeler by his Excellency Don Patricio Rivas, President of the Republic.

At twelve o'clock, m., on Saturday, the 10th instant, the Prefect of Granada and the Governor, by the direction of the President, awaited on the Minister, at the house of the United States Legation, where all the American residents of Granada had assembled; when they repaired to the council chamber of the government house, where the officers of the commander-in-chief, the clergy, and many others were assembled. Colonel Wheeler then delivered the following address:

MR. PRESIDENT: I congratulate you upon your accession to the Presidency of the Republic of Nicaragua.

I had the honor of presenting in May last, to the government of this city, a letter from the President of the United States accrediting me minister resident near this republic.

The diplomatic usages of the United States, from the earliest period, have always acknowledged that every nation possesses the right to govern itself according to its own will; and to transact its business through whatever agent it may think proper to employ.

In conformity to ancient and honorable precedents, I request that you will regard the letter of the President of the United States, now on file in the archives of your State Department, as addressed to you, as President of the Republic of Nicaragua; and that you rely with confidence on his sincerity in the expression of friendship entertained by him, and the people of the United States, for this republic, and the desire of the President and our Government to cultivate the harmony and good correspondence which now so happily subsist between us.

From the period of her independence from Spain, in 1821, to the date of the treaty by virtue of which you, Mr. President, hold your office, Nicaragua has been the scene of revolution and warfare, of intestine convulsion and blood. If there were, at some short intervals, a temporary cessation of hostilities, it was only to enable the political storm to gather fresh fury by reprieve.

I hail the treaty of the 23d ult., between the chiefs of the respective armies, as was the sacred dove bearing the olive branch of peace; proving that the bitter waters of desolation and destruction had subsided. And I trust that the ark which has been so long tossed upon the troubled ocean of political strife may now rest secure in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity.

With a soil as fertile as any on earth, abundant in mineral wealth, the "El Dorado" of the hopes of Columbus, a salubrious climate, a geographical position so important that it is the "Golden Gate" between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, which opens the commerce of the world, your republic is the centre of Central America, and requires peace, industry, and enterprise to take its appropriate position among the nations of the earth.

The example of the "great republic of the North," like the Pole Star to the sea-soared mariner, plainly points to you the true way of national greatness.

The interests are the same—their principles should be the same.

Our true policy is to declare and maintain that the people of American republics can govern themselves; that no foreign power shall be allowed to control in the slightest manner our views or interfere in the least degree with our interests. Our dignity, our rights, and security as republics, demand this, and the idea of a preference or of a concession, by any foreign power on this side of the ocean, is utterly inadmissible.

Be assured, Mr. President, that nothing shall be wanting on my part to advance the interests of both republics, and as the representative of the United States to discharge my important and delicate duties in a manner agreeable to you and satisfactory to my own government.

To which the President made the following reply:

MR. MINISTER: With particular pleasure I have listened to the expression of those generous sentiments with which your excellency congratulates my accession to the presidency, and for which I return to you my warmest thanks; and, so far as in my power, in the position in which I find myself placed nothing will be more grateful to me than to maintain cordial relations with your excellency, who so worthily represents the government of the illustrious American nation.

If these relations have at all times been considered by Nicaragua as of great importance for her improvement and well-being, how much, without doubt, more important are they now, when an extensive and disastrous civil war is just terminated by the means of fraternal understanding in favor of the republic; upon whose young and powerful elements of liberty and order hopes are founded that this country